

March 17, 2000

**Tom Bliley
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Commerce
Room 2125, Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 200515-6155**

Dear Congressman Bliley:

This is to personally and corporately apologize to you and the entire House of Representatives for my failure to appear before the House Commerce Subcommittee on Health. I was personally subpoenaed to appear at 2:00 p.m. on March 9th and I failed to do so and to give notice that I would not be appearing. As a Christian and Eagle Scout, I understand the importance of setting an example and taking responsibilities for one's actions. I do not wish to abrogate my responsibility nor diminish the seriousness of the charges for failing to appear before a Subcommittee hearing when commanded to do so. Therefore, I will not seek to contest any charges or other actions the House of Representatives may wish to impose upon me or my corporation. I will not seek legal counsel and will submit to the will of Congress.

I am deeply concerned that you may not understand my motivation for failing to appear. I received the notification of the hearing only eight days prior to the hearing. Unfortunately, my schedule was completely filled and I had patient care responsibilities during the period requested by the subpoena. With the limited time available I was unable to arrange for coverage. I was responsible for patient care in West Virginia on the day and time of the hearing. This assignment had been arranged approximately

two months prior. I wish to state clearly and without hesitation that if provided another opportunity to appear before any committee of Congress, I will do so without hesitation.

I share with Congress their deep concern for assuring that fetal tissue is not misused. I understand that organizations and individuals associated with the concept of eliminating all pregnancy terminations have alleged that I, personally, have trafficked in fetal tissue. Secretly recorded videotape of comments I made in response to an undercover reporter during dinner and aired on national television have done nothing to dispel this impression and in fact, have reinforced the opinion that I sold fetal tissue for valuable consideration. In fact, nothing could be further from the truth. The repercussions of the 20/20 news story and my failure to appear before the Hearing have resulted in significant personal and professional ruination. My wife and I now live in terror.

Once again, I would like to admit that I, personally, without coercion or counsel from anyone else, failed to answer a subpoena of Congress. I realize my actions go far beyond any individual and can be construed to represent a disrespect for the great institution of which you are a member. Please be assured that I had no intention of undermining the authority of Congress and do not wish my actions to represent any more than a personal failure of judgment. I take full responsibility for my actions and only ask that the House have mercy upon me and show me compassion. I sincerely and deeply apologize to Chairman Bliley, the members of the House Commerce Committee, all of the members of the House of Representatives and their staffs for my egregious errors. I can only ask for forgiveness and understanding and state that if requested, I will appear before any Committee of Congress.

With regards,



Miles J. Jones